

## Message Text

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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION NATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8094

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: SOCIALISTS UP THE  
ANTE IN THE AGRARIAN SECTOR

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT ON NOV 19 APPROVED A SERIES  
OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON COMMUNIST  
RURAL UNIONS. FORCED HIRING OF UNEMPLOYED AGRICULTURAL  
WORKERS RECOMMENDED BY THE UNIONS HAS BEEN BARRED.  
THE GOVERNMENT IS MOVING TO RECAPTURE MOMENTUM IN THE AGRARIAN  
SECTOR LOST THROUGH BICKERING AMONG THE SOCIALISTS AND THE  
RESIGNATION OF LOPES CARDOSO. END SUMMARY.

1. SQUEEZING PCP RURAL UNIONS: DURING ITS NOV 19  
MEETING IN OPORTO, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
APPROVED A SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO PUT  
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FURTHER PRESSURE ON COMMUNIST RURAL UNIONS.

THEY INCLUDED:

- TERMINATION OF FORCED PLACEMENT OF UNEMPLOYED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.
- CREATION OF AN INSTITUTE CHARGED WITH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF LAND EXPROPRIATED UNDER THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM.
- DISSOLUTION OF THE PCP-INFILTRATED SUPPORT SERVICE FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. COMMUNISTS REACT: PCP RURAL UNIONS HELD DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND IN EVORA, BEJA, AND PORTALEGRE TO PROTEST THE ACTIONS. INTERSINDICAL GOT INTO STEP WITH A NOV 21 STATEMENT ATTACKING RECENT ACTIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY AS A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON AGRARIAN REFORM.

3. GDUP CONGRESS REFLECTS DISUNITY: THE OFT-DELAYED CONGRESS OF POPULAR UNITY GROUPS (GDUP), HELD NOV 19-21 OUTSIDE LISBON, WAS MARKED BY INTERNAL BICKERING. THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT (PRP) AND THE UNIFIED SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MSU) REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE; BOTH CITED POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) EFFORTS TO DOMINATE THE GDUP. SEVERAL HUNDRED DELEGATES WALKED OUT TO PROTEST THE SINGLE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY OTELO'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN MANAGER LUIS MOITA. THE CONGRESS AGREED TO RENAME GDUP THE POPULAR UNITY MOVEMENT (MUP), "A FRONT OPEN TO ALL OPPONENTS OF FASCISM." THE CONGRESS LEFT VACANT THE MUP PRESIDENCY FOR OTELO, WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF HIS MILITARY STATUS. THE CONGRESS ENDORSED THE FOLLOWING LINES OF ACTION:

- FULL LIBERTIES FOR OTELO;
  - AGAINST ANTI-WORKER LEGISLATION, "REACTIONARY" EDUCATION POLICIES, AND A RETURN TO CAPITALISM;
  - FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKERS IN A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS OF UNIONS;
  - FOR FORMATION OF RURAL UNIONS IN THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL REGIONS;
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- FOR THE END OF IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION, PORTUGAL'S EXIT FROM ANTO, THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATO BRIGADE, AND THE DISMANTLING OF FOREIGN BASES.

3. PORTUGUESE DELEGATE PRAISES NATO ASSEMBLY: UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VASCO DE GAMA

FERNANDES TOLD THE PRESS THAT PORTUGAL WAS TREATED AS A FULL PARTNER AND WITH GREAT RESPECT BECAUSE OF ITS FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY. FERNANDES, OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT, NOTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

4. COMMENT: THE AGRICULTURAL MEASURES, TOGETHER WITH THOSE AFFECTING TRADE UNION DUES COLLECTION (SEPTEL) HAVE A COMMON OBJECTIVE: WEAKENING THE STRUCTURES THROUGH WHICH COMMUNIST DOMINATION IS EXERCISED. THE BANNING OF FORCED HIRINGS, IF IT STICKS, WILL ELIMINATE ONE OF THE GREATEST WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF THE PCP RURAL UNIONS. THE GOVERNMENT, BY ITS ACTIONS IS SEEKING TO RECAPTURE MOMENTUM LOST THROUGH BICKERING AMONG THE SOCIALISTS AND THE RESIGNATION OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO.  
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